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To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Antigonish Deserves a Vote

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My name is Brena Hiltz, I moved to Antigonish 22 years ago as a freshman at StFX. Now I am a homeowner, a stay at home mom to three daughters and my husband owns a small business. Antigonish is our home, our community - I am proud to live in a small, diverse community where we know our neighbors and our kids can play in our backyards with very little concerns. Our community grows quickly in the fall with the students arriving and then again in the summer with the Highland games. Our community has rallied and fundraised for numerous Syrian families that we have welcomed - including the famous Peace by Chocolate.

This all changed when in the middle of the covid pandemic the word "amalgamation" has spoken, it was brought up years before but the communities voted it down but this time it was introduced in a way that got around us being able to vote. Petitions were brought to councils only to be pushed aside. Councillors that did not campaign on the "merger" would now be the soul deciders on such an important topic. I have sent numerous emails to my mayor and councillors with questions and concerns but have I only ever heard from those who voted against it - my mayor has not once acknowledged my concerns. Once their vote happened I started to email not only my councillors and mayor but also my MLA Michelle Thompkins and Tim Houston as well as Zach Churchill and Kendra Coombs. I have emailed over 10 times to the last four and have only ever heard from Zach and Kendra - my own elected MLA, who when campaigning asked me to trust her to be our voice at the peoples house, cant even be bothered to listen to us!!!

We deserve a vote, we deserve to be heard - dont push this through, allow us our municipal vote this october and allow us to elect those who will hear and listen to us - over 77% of a survey are against this and over 65% will no reelect the conservatives. Allow our voices to be heard because right now it seems no one is listening to us

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